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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/602,597 | 06/25/2003 | Kazuo Okada | 239509US2 | 1457 |
| 22850 | 7590 | 05/05/2005 | EXAMINER | |
| OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314 | | | COLLINS, DOLORES R | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 3711 | |

DATE MAILED: 05/05/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 10/602,597 | OKADA, KAZUO |
| | Examiner | Art Unit |
| | Dolores R. Collins | 3711 |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 February 2005.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1,3-5,7-9,11-13,15 and 17-22 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1,3-5,7-9,11-13,15 and 17-22 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/30/04.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Examiner acknowledges response by applicant's representative received 2/9/05.

Examiner further acknowledges the addition of claims 19-22.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

1. Claims 1, 3-5, 7-9 & 13, 15 & 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kimura (105) in view of Satoh et al. (273).

Kimura discloses a Game Machine With Selective Stop Means For Moving Display.

Regarding claims 1, 5, 9 & 13

Kimura teaches a variable display unit with a plurality of symbols which can be view through a front display (figure 2 a stopping controller (col. 2, lines 28-31 & 55-58) and the provision of awards (col. 3, lines 4-20). Kimura teaches lamps (24-26) used to

emit signals for the purpose of stopping the reels (col.2, lines 58-62) but fails to explicitly teach a backlight that is set in the front side display unit in order to light up the symbols displayed by the variable display unit. Satoh discloses an Illumination Unit For Reels Of Slot Machine. He teaches a light set in the end portion of the front side of the display unit in order to light up the symbols in the front of the unit (see figures 9, 13 (element 3) & 14 (element 3)). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Kimura to include a backlight in the end portion of his game machine more efficient and effective lighting.

Regarding claims 3, 7, 15 & 17

Kimura teaches a variable display unit with a plurality of symbols, which can be view through a front display (col. 2, lines 42-51 & figure 2).

Regarding claims 4 & 8

Kimura teaches a stopping controller and a plurality of individual stoppers for each reel (col. 2, lines 28-31 & 55-58).

2. Claims 11, 12 & 18-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kimura (105) as applied to claims 1, 5, 9 & 13 and further in view of Nobuo (290) view of Hitoshi et al. (725).

Kimura discloses a Game Machine With Selective Stop Means For Moving Display.

Regarding claim 11

Kimura teaches a variable display unit with a plurality of symbols, which can be view through a front display (col. 2, lines 42-51 & figure 2).

Regarding claim 12

Kimura teaches a stopping controller and a plurality of individual stoppers for each reel (col. 2, lines 28-31 & 55-58).

Regarding claims 18-22

Kimura fails to explicitly teach the use of an LCD. Nobuo discloses a Slot machine. Nobuo teaches a liquid crystal panel (the same as an LCD). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Kimura to further include an LCD/panel device in shaded state (reflecting cover (51)) for enhanced visually satisfaction for the players.

Kimura further fails to explicitly teach a reflecting cover. Hitoshi discloses a Sheet-Like Light emitting Device And Play Machine using it. Hitoshi teaches the use of a reflecting sheet (43). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to further modify Kimura to include reflective sheets to further enhance the lighting conditions of the display unit.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 2/9/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant has amended the independent claims to include language suggesting the position of the backlight. The backlight in the sighted reference to Kimura is positioned in an end portion of the of the display unit (the top end).

Examiner's supports the position of official notice with the reference of record to Takemoto (962). The motivation for use of backlights in the windows of Kimura would be for clear viewing of the displays at the front end of the unit.

Arguments with respect to claims 9 & 18 are moot in view of the above rejection.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure and are cited to show the state of art with respect to features of the claimed invention.

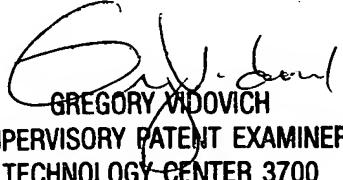
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ***Dolores R. Collins*** whose telephone number is **(571)272-4421**. The examiner can normally be reached on 8.00 A.M. - 4:30 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, ***Greg Vidovich*** can be reached on **(571)272-4415**. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **703-872-9306**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at **866-217-9197** (toll-free).



4/28/05


GREGORY VIDOVICH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700